

## REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-12 and 14-58 are in the application, with Claims 2, 5, 14, 22, 28, 33, 41, 45 and 47 having been amended, with Claims 9 and 13 having been cancelled, and with Claims 49-58 having been added. Claims 1, 20, 28, 37 and 44 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

### Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 14-19, 28, 32-37 and 40-48 are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,732,175 ("Abjanic") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,535 ("Underwood").

Claims 11, 20-27, 29-31, 38 and 39 are rejected as being unpatentable over Abjanic in view of Underwood in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,139 ("Dillenger").

Claim 1 is directed to a "method in a computer system for dispatching requests to perform services to sub-applications that use different logic models". The method of claim 1 includes "providing a context for the sub-applications" and "receiving a request to perform a service". The method further includes, for a plurality of sub-applications, "determining whether the received request should be dispatched to the sub-application" and "when it is determined that the request should be dispatched to the sub-application, invoking a service routine of the sub-application passing the request". Finally, claim 1 recites that "the sub-applications share the provided context".

In explaining the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner relied upon the Abjanic reference as satisfying the limitation of determining whether a received request should be dispatched to a plurality of sub-applications. It appears to applicant that the Examiner particularly relies on the message director 145 (FIGS. 1 and 5; column 3, lines 2-5), which routes or directs messages received from a network to one of a plurality of processing nodes, each of which is a respective server or device. It appears that the Examiner takes the "sub-applications" to be satisfied by respective software executing on each of the servers 150, 160, 170 (FIG. 1) or 510, 515, 520 (FIG. 5).

The Examiner recognizes that Abjanic does not disclose providing a context for the sub-applications that is shared among the sub-applications. The Examiner proposed to make up for this deficiency in Abjanic by relying on the teaching in Underwood (column 324, lines 57-62) concerning a context object shared among components. In particular, the Examiner stated that “[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art...to combine the context object of Underwood with the system of Abjanic in order to facilitate shared application-wide configuration information efficiently”.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1 as to the latter point. Specifically, it seems to applicants that one of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to import the shared context object of Underwood into Abjanic’s system because of differences between the systems described in the two references. In the case of Underwood’s system, it is noted that the components which share the context all execute on the same transaction server (column 324, lines 60-61). On the other hand, the various software components in Abjanic’s system that the Examiner apparently considers to be sub-applications each execute on a different server. One of ordinary skill would not expect that advantages available from sharing a context object among components executing on a single server would be realized by attempting to share a context object among software components that execute on different servers. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the shared context object of Underwood cannot properly be imported into the multi-server system of Abjanic for sharing among software components that respectively reside on different servers. The rejection of claim 1 should accordingly be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner has similarly relied upon this proposed combination of Abjanic and Underwood as to each of the other independent claims, and it therefore is felt that all of the pending claim rejections should be withdrawn for the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

#### New Claims

All of the new claims 49-58 are dependent claims and are therefore believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. In addition, each new claim is

believed to recite a limitation that supports patentability of the new claim on grounds that are independent of the patentability of its parent claim.

Claim 49 is dependent on claim 1 and recites the additional limitation that “all of the sub-applications execute on the same server computer”. (Claims 50-53 are respectively dependent on claims 20, 28, 37 and 44 and are to substantially the same effect as claim 49.) Support for this limitation is found at FIG. 1 (server 103; sub-applications 108, 109, 110) and at page 4, lines 20-24 of the specification.

It is again noted that the “sub-applications” found by the Examiner to be present in Abjanic’s system each run on a separate server. Thus claim 49 (as well as claims 50-53) is believed to further distinguish over the prior art applied by the Examiner since claim 49 now specifies that all of the sub-applications execute on the same server computer.

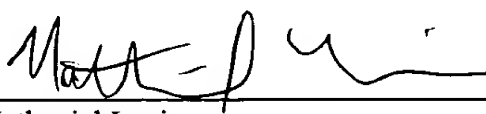
Claim 54 is dependent on claim 1 and recites the additional limitation that “a respective service routine is invoked for the request with respect to each of at least two of the sub-applications”. (Claims 55-58 are respectively dependent on claims 20, 28, 37 and 44 and are to substantially the same effect as claim 54.) Support for this limitation is provided, for example, by sub-application sequence 210 shown in FIG. 2, which illustrates a single request processed by several sub-applications. (See also page 5, lines 21-30 of the specification.) By contrast, Abjanic’s system appears to operate such that each request is routed to one and only one server by the message director 145. Thus Abjanic fails to teach or suggest processing a request by at least two sub-applications. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 54-58 further distinguish over the prior art applied by the Examiner. Such is also the case with respect to claims 2, 22, 33, 41 and 45 which have been amended so as to depend from claims 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58 respectively.

### CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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Nathaniel Levin  
Registration No. 34,860  
Buckley, Maschoff & Talwalkar LLC  
Five Elm Street  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
(203) 972-3460